



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

141700

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

*Via Fax and U.S. Mail*

August 10, 2000

Richard Tappen  
Nicor Gas  
Environmental Services  
1844 Ferry Road  
Naperville, IL 60563-9600

Re: Screening of Additional Homes Potentially Contaminated with Mercury

Dear Mr. Tappen.

As per our conversation of today, it was confirmed that Nicor has not yet screened the additional residences recently identified as having a mercury regulator located either inside or outside of their home. A list of approximately 85 addresses was forwarded to U.S. EPA on August 3, 2000, as part of the Nicor response to a CERCLA 104 (e) Request for Information.

On several occasions during the past two weeks, U.S. EPA and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) staff have requested that Nicor screen the homes which Henkels and McCoy, or any other subcontractor, may have improperly removed a mercury regulator. U.S. EPA, ATSDR and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) now strongly suggest that Nicor properly screen these homes as soon as possible to determine whether mercury contamination may exist either inside or outside of the residences. If it is found that mercury contamination does exist, immediate mitigation should commence.

As part of the Information Request, U.S. EPA asked Nicor to identify other subcontractors which have been used to change out mercury regulators. Besides Henkels and McCoy, three other firms were identified. U.S. EPA suggests that a list identifying homes with mercury regulators be generated and evaluated to determine whether other homes serviced by these subcontractors could be contaminated due to improper meter replacement.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If any further questions arise please don't hesitate in contacting me at 312 886-0406.

Sincerely,

Brad Stimple  
U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator